

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
grossly abuses the
public trust. It is
also a clear example
of the dangers of
monopoly brought
about by media
consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
less of what we need
for our democracy.
Control of markets
diminishes
competition, opening
the door to
deceptive and
distorted
presentation of
stories that cannot
bear critical
scrutiny because
they are not backed
by hard facts. We
need to see more
substantive news
about issues that
matter, including
more locally
produced programming
that is accountable
to our own
communities.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.